



# Early Childhood Education

ADE / ECE



UPDATE

JANUARY 2012

## Special Education Monitoring now to include GOLD Data!

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Early Childhood Unit works closely and assists the Exceptional Student Services (ESS) specialists with monitoring of Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) as part of the ADE/ESS comprehensive monitoring process for ages 3 through 21. The ESS monitoring system is designed to ensure compliance with State and Federal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 and the Arizona Revised Statutes. Special education monitoring activities are conducted on a six year cycle. The Public Education Agency (PEA) monitoring type is determined based on a yearly review of the PEA's data. Compliance and results indicator data from the state performance plan/annual performance report (SPP/APR), dispute resolution findings, policies

and procedures, and annual site visit data are all reviewed annually by the ESS Program Specialist in collaboration with the district's special education director.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** the data review will now also include Early Childhood Outcomes/GOLD Data. Data review influences the monitoring type that will occur in year four of the monitoring cycle. Based on the findings the state may find (1) the data sufficient, or (2) the need for either PEA conducted self assessment or an on-site monitoring.

As we implement the use of GOLD Data in determining Monitoring Types, this first year's criteria will require that a district is meeting checkpoint deadlines for data submission

If you need assistance with your implementation of GOLD please contact Holly Ford.

## Early Childhood Professional Development

Are you taking advantage of all the fantastic **FREE** professional development opportunities the ECE Unit provides? Check out these topics and get signed up!

- ◇ Mathematics Standards
- ◇ Social Emotional Standards
- ◇ Introduction to the Program Guidelines for High Quality Early Education
- ◇ Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scales– Revised (ECERS-R)
- ◇ Introduction to the Early Learning Standards
- ◇ Language and Literacy Standards

A roll-out of workshops on the Program Guidelines for High Quality Early Education are occurring all over the state. Be sure to check the Early Childhood Professional Development Calendar by clicking on the calendar in the bottom right corner of our [Early Childhood webpage](#). You must attend a session to receive a hard copy of the program guidelines.



## Lighthouse Programs

♦ Laveen Elementary  
District, Phoenix  
602.237.9100

Contact Juliana Panqueva to schedule a visit for ADE/ECE staff member to put your program on our Lighthouse Registry!!



## Lighthouse Program #1

The Laveen District's award-winning preschool program is located at the PreK Corner of the beautiful new Laveen Elementary School campus. It is an early intervention program serving 100 preschool-aged children from the community. While the majority of the "Little Hawks" are eligible for special education services, there are several typically-developing children who participate as "peer models." Students receive excellent programming from four highly-qualified special education teachers and several certificated therapists to provide instruction for each child based on his/her developmental needs. Students learn through play and adult-directed activities that encourage the development of communication, social, self-help, motor, and cognitive skills. Interactive white

boards and a variety of assistive technology devices are used on a daily basis to support learning. Assessment is ongoing, with data collected on a frequent basis to guide instruction. Parents support their child's education by volunteering in the classrooms, engaging in family homework projects, and participating in monthly family outings in the community. A unique practice is a central listing of each child's IEP goals posted in each classroom. This allows substitutes, paraprofessionals and parents to support the child in meeting those goals. The program and its staff have been recognized for excellence by the Council for Exceptional Children, the Arizona School Public Relations Association, the Arizona Association of School Psychologists, and the Laveen Governing Board.

## Early Intervention Transitions

As we are well into our 2011-2012 school year, this is a reminder for early intervention transitions from Part C (AzEIP) to Part B (Preschool). PEA Notification Referral Forms serve two purposes: (1) notification of a child nearing the age of three who is potentially eligible for preschool, and (2) referral for preschool special education. Upon receipt, the district counts this Notification/Referral as the point of referral. This is generally given/sent to the district after the transition conference. However, it must be sent no later than the child's age of 2 years, 9 months unless the parent opts-out in writing. If the service coordinator sends information prior to the transition conference, it should come with a parent release to share information form. This is not considered the point of referral but is information to discuss during the transition conference. Questions? Contact Kathy Coloma.

## Annual AzDEC Spring Conference

ADE Early Childhood Education Division will again be co-sponsoring the Arizona Division of Early Childhood (AzDEC) Spring Conference! This is always a "take this and use it on Monday" kind of day. It's also an opportunity to recognize and award leaders in the Arizona early childhood community. This year we'll have Lillian M. McCuen, M.A. from Temple University presenting on **CARA's Kit**. This is a phenomenal resource that has been endorsed by DEC and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This tool is designed to assist early

childhood personnel to improve the learning environment and children's participation in the educational setting through the use of adaptations. Don't miss it!!

**When: Saturday, March 31st from 9-3**

**Where: Cardon Children's Medical Center  
Mesa, Arizona**

**Cost: \$75 non-DEC members  
\$60 DEC members  
\$40 Family childcare providers,  
parents of children with  
disabilities and students**

**See the [DEC Newsletter](#) for a link to a flyer and registration.**

## District Preschool Teacher Named Special Education Teacher of the Year



Ms. Kandy Clauss, Preschool Coordinator for the Laveen Elementary School District, was recently named the 2010 Samuel A. Kirk Special Education Teacher of the Year Award by the Arizona Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children. Ms. Clauss was recognized for her compassion, dedication to children with special needs, and outstanding ability to coordinate large volumes of work without losing the personal touch which is so important to parents and students. Her knowledge of

early childhood development and involvement in interventions and transitions has provided invaluable leadership and guidance to the staff, parents, and students in her district.

Kandy is a graduate of Eastern University of Illinois where she started her teaching career. When she relocated to Arizona she worked in Riverside, Tempe and currently works and lives in the Laveen School District along with her husband and family.

Kandy's most recent work has been with students included in Head Start and First Things First general education classrooms as well as self-contained developmental preschool classrooms with peer models. In her current role she provides direct services to students, evaluates children for special education eligibility, transitions early intervention students into preschool and is a trainer for other special education teachers and staff.

*"Fairness is not everyone getting the same thing. Fairness is when every child gets what they need."*

## Resources and Reminders

### **\*Great Resources\***

#### **Washington Learning Systems**

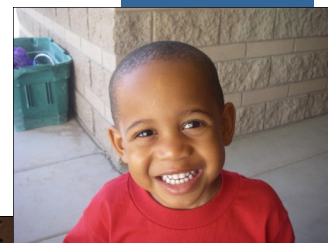
Downloadable resources in both Spanish and English to support language and literacy in the home.

#### **First Things First**

Find out what is happening with your local FTF Regional Council! How is money in your area being spent to assist young children ages birth to five and their families. There are statewide initiatives and local initiatives. Get involved! Consider providing the parent link to FTF in your communications to parents.

### **\*Reminders\***

#### **Opportunity to Provide Input on Infant Toddler Developmental Guidelines**



## Early Childhood Special Education Contact Information

**Amy Corriveau, Deputy Associate Superintendent &  
Head Start State Collaboration Director**  
602-364-1530

[Amy.Corriveau@azed.gov](mailto:Amy.Corriveau@azed.gov)

**Alma Quintana, Project Specialist**  
602-364-1910

[Alma.Quintana@azed.gov](mailto:Alma.Quintana@azed.gov)

**Beth Haas, Program Specialist**  
Central Maricopa  
602-542-3136

[Beth.Haas@azed.gov](mailto:Beth.Haas@azed.gov)

**Brenda Mann, Program Specialist**  
South Phoenix  
602-542-3421

[Brenda.Mann@azed.gov](mailto:Brenda.Mann@azed.gov)

For questions on assessment and  
Teaching Strategies GOLD, contact:  
**Holly Ford, ECSE Program Specialist**  
602-542-2790

[Holly.Ford@azed.gov](mailto:Holly.Ford@azed.gov)

**Juliana Panqueva, Administrative Assistant**  
602-364.1530

[Juliana.Panqueva@azed.gov](mailto:Juliana.Panqueva@azed.gov)

For assistance with AzEIP Alerts and  
Early Intervention Transitions, contact:  
**Kathy Coloma, ECSE Program Specialist**  
602-542-8732

[Kathy.Coloma@azed.gov](mailto:Kathy.Coloma@azed.gov)

**Val Andrews-James, Director**  
Early Childhood Special Education/619  
602-364-1530

[Val.Andrewsjames@azed.gov](mailto:Val.Andrewsjames@azed.gov)

**Mari Whelan, Program Specialist**  
First Things First PreK Scholarship Grant  
602-364-1966

[Mariko.Whelan@azed.gov](mailto:Mariko.Whelan@azed.gov)

**Pat Immele, Financial Program Specialist**  
602-542-8812

[Pat.Immele@azed.gov](mailto:Pat.Immele@azed.gov)

**Susan Lewis, Program Specialist**  
Northeast Maricopa County  
602-542-3160

[Susan.Lewis@azed.gov](mailto:Susan.Lewis@azed.gov)

**Terry Doolan, Professional Development**  
602-542-1137

[Terry.Doolan@azed.gov](mailto:Terry.Doolan@azed.gov)

**Tina Sykes, Program Specialist**  
Southeast Maricopa  
602-542-2790

[Tina.Sykes@azed.gov](mailto:Tina.Sykes@azed.gov)

**Willette Watts, Program Specialist**  
Northwest Maricopa  
602-542-3143

[Willette.Watts@azed.gov](mailto:Willette.Watts@azed.gov)

**\*[Click here](#) to access past ECE Newsletters.**

## 25 Years of IDEA Early Childhood Programs

Last October marked the 25th Anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) Part C (early intervention birth to 3 programs) and Part B Section 619 (preschool 3-5 year old programs). Watch the [anniversary video](#) put together by folks at the federal level. Where were you in 1986? Val received her BA in communicative disorders and was starting her graduate studies in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Central Florida in Orlando! Holly was a student in the Washington Elementary School District! Terry's daughter was two and she was living in the swamp of southwest Louisiana. Alma was in 3rd grade in California, and Pat was a stay at home mom and on the brink of beginning a 25 year career with the state!